

# House Armed Services Committee

## DEMOCRATS

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## Langevin and Butterfield Tout Democratic Support for Sufficiently Equipping our Troops

*Washington D.C.—Today Congressmen James Langevin (RI) and G.K Butterfield (NC), both members of the House Armed Services Committee, spoke on the House floor to express Democratic support for providing sufficient levels of equipment to our men and women in uniform.*

(FULL STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED)

### Rep. Langevin

“We often overlook the impact that the high operations tempo in Iraq and Afghanistan has had on our equipment. Though the military has accomplished a great deal with what they have, we have clear indications that we are wearing down our equipment, perhaps faster than we can replace it.

“Our worldwide pre-positioned stocks, which are intended to give our troops rapid access to equipment when needed, are severely depleted, with the Army estimating that we would need three years to fully restore them. We cannot ignore the potential impact of this trend on the long-term readiness of our military.”

### Rep. Butterfield

“The Congress of the United States has a solemn constitutional duty to provide for our military and the Democratic members of the Congress take this responsibility very seriously. A significant part of our duty is to make sure that our troops have the equipment they need to be successful when they are engaged in War.

I want my colleagues and the American people to understand that we are coming dangerously close to weakening our military and we must understand the enormity of the problem. I regret that the president’s 2006 budget request does not include the money we need to replace and modernize our worn and lost equipment.”

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